UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/498
5 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 21

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By resolution 45/10 of 25 October 1990, the General Assembly, inter alia, took note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) (A/45/499), as well as his efforts to strengthen that cooperation; expressed its satisfaction at the close cooperation between the two organizations in the verification of the electoral process in Nicaragua from August 1989 to February 1990; and recognized the effectiveness of the cooperation between the two organizations with respect to the procedures established by the Central American Presidents within the context of the subregional peace process.

2. The General Assembly recommended that there should be an intensification of the preparations for the general meeting between representatives of OAS and of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system, for the purpose of holding consultations on projects, measures and procedures which would facilitate and broaden cooperation between those organizations. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

3. On 24 January 1991, letters transmitting General Assembly resolution 45/10 were sent to the organizations within the United Nations system.

4. By letters dated 20 February 1991, those organizations were invited to participate in a general meeting between the representatives of OAS and of the United Nations system of organizations. The meeting was held at United Nations Headquarters from 15 to 17 May 1991 and was opened by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAS.

5. On 19 July 1991, the text of resolution AG/RES.1126 (XXI-0/91) on cooperation between the Organization of American States and the United Nations, which was adopted by the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly of OAS on 8 June 1991 was transmitted to the organizations of the United Nations system.

6. By that resolution, the General Assembly of OAS, inter alia, expressed satisfaction that the Secretary-General of OAS and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had inaugurated the general meeting between OAS and the United Nations held from 15 to 17 May 1991, and also noted with satisfaction that the Secretary-General of OAS, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, would establish an appropriate mechanism for the follow-up of coordination between the two systems.

7. On 10 June 1992, the text of resolution AG/RES.1199 (XXII-0/92) also on cooperation between the Organization of American States and the United Nations, adopted by the twenty-second regular session of the General Assembly of OAS, was also transmitted to the organizations of the United Nations system.

8. By the above resolution, the General Assembly of OAS, inter alia, recommended that negotiations continue between the Secretary-General of OAS and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for finalizing and signing an agreement on cooperation between the general secretariats of the two organizations; and requested the Secretary-General of OAS to continue taking appropriate measures to deepen and expand cooperation and coordination between OAS and the United Nations and their specialized agencies. The OAS General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General of OAS, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to hold periodic general meetings between the two systems for the purpose of reviewing and appraising progress, as well as to hold inter-agency sectoral meetings on areas of priority or on mutually agreed issues.

9. By the above-mentioned letter of 10 June 1992, the organizations within the United Nations system were requested to provide updated information on their activities with OAS to be included in the report of the Secretary-General to the United Nations General Assembly.

10. The present report outlines the measures taken to implement the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/10. An account of the General Meeting between the representatives of the secretariats of OAS and the United Nations system of organizations is contained in the addendum to the present report.

II. CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

11. During the period under review, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States and their representatives continued to cooperate on issues related to the situation in Central America and on matters of mutual interest to, and cooperation between, the two organizations.

12. In an exchange of visits, the Under-Secretary-General of the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat led a delegation to OAS headquarters in April 1991 in connection with arrangements for the general meeting between the two organizations, which was subsequently held in New York in May 1991. The Assistant Secretary-General of OAS responsible for cooperation with the United Nations held meetings in New York and Geneva with senior officials of the United Nations, including the Director-General for International Economic Cooperation, the Under-Secretary-General for Regional Cooperation, and the Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

13. The representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Assistant Secretary-General of OAS also met to discuss cooperation matters while attending the twelfth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community held at Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis, in July 1991, as well as the twenty-second regular session of the OAS General Assembly held at Nassau in May 1992.

14. On 14 June 1992, while attending the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Secretary-General of the United Nations held discussions with the Secretary-General of OAS on matters of cooperation between the two organizations.

15. In a letter dated 15 July 1992, the Secretary-General of the United Nations informed the President of the Security Council of an exchange of correspondence on the situation in Haiti and of his decision, in pursuance of the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 46/7 of 11 October 1991, to accept the offer of the Secretary-General of OAS to include participation from the United Nations in his proposed mission to Haiti. 1/ In a letter of 29 July 1992, the President of the Security Council informed the Secretary-General that following consultations, the Security Council had decided to take note of the letter of the Secretary-General. 2/ The Director of the Americas Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat participated in the OAS mission which was led by Mr. Baena Soares, Secretary-General of OAS, and which visited Haiti from 18 to 21 August 1992.

16. During the reporting period, OAS continued its representation on the support committee, the policies and project committee and in sectoral meetings of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America, established by United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/231 of 12 May 1988.

17. Representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, at the invitation of OAS, attended as observers the twenty-first and twenty-second regular sessions of the General Assembly of OAS held at Santiago from 3 to 8 June 1991 and at Nassau, the Bahamas, from 18 to 23 May 1992, respectively.

18. Also, representatives of the secretariats of both organizations and their associated institutions continued to exchange information, attend each other's meetings and cooperate on matters of mutual interest.

III. FOLLOW-UP ACTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 45/10

19. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 45/10, which requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the resolution, letters were dispatched on 10 June 1992 to the organizations of the United Nations system requesting them to convey their contributions to him by 30 July 1992.

20. Communications received from the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system concerning cooperation between the United Nations and OAS are set out below.

A. United Nations Development Programme

21. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/10, during 1992 the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has continued to promote active collaboration with OAS at both the headquarters and field levels. The continuing dialogue between the two organizations allowed them to explore specific areas for joint programme initiatives, and meetings were held at headquarters in March and June 1992 to discuss cooperation in the areas of human resources, women in development, science and technology, environment and governance. There have also been joint, ongoing discussions on drug abuse control and disaster preparedness.

22. In response to a directive issued at headquarters, UNDP resident representatives have increased their contacts and consultations with OAS representatives in order to enhance effective coordination for the benefit of the countries in the region. In this context, OAS indicated that it is available to act as executing agency for UNDP projects. Owing to the UNDP policy on national execution, however, UNDP has suggested that OAS could become an associated agency, a role similar to that which is increasingly being played by the agencies of the United Nations system.

23. Information was also provided by UNDP headquarters to OAS staff on the structure and operation of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries given the interest displayed by OAS in promoting horizontal cooperation among member countries.

24. With regard to cooperation between UNDP and OAS at the field level in Central America, OAS participated with other donors such as UNDP, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America in reviewing and establishing priorities for international development cooperation under the Special Plan for Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC).

25. At present, OAS and UNDP are considering their participation in a technical support office operated by the spouses of the Presidents of the Central American nations; OAS would contribute to the establishment of this office within the context of the Regional Commission on Social Matters, through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

26. An important initiative on "Human development, children and youth" received the support of OAS through the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Central American Institute for Nutrition (INCAP), by their participation together with UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) in the steering committee which guides the international contribution to the corresponding national action plans. The initiative of Madrid III for Health and Peace towards Development and Democracy also received the support of OAS, UNDP, UNICEF and INCAP.

27. In addition, OAS, through PAHO, acts as the executing agency for a UNDP/PEC-financed project on Health Management for Central American countries. Furthermore, PAHO acts as associated executing agency in a number of health projects implemented under the UNDP/PEC-financed Development Programme for Displaced Persons, Refugees and Returnees (PRODERE).

28. OAS has offered to assist the Government of Belize in strengthening public sector management. In this connection, UNDP fielded a reconnaissance mission by its Management Development Programme which coordinated with OAS before proceeding to identify specific public sector management needs.

29. In Mexico, collaboration between OAS and UNDP continued at the programme and project level following the strong stand taken by the Government of Mexico regarding donor coordination. Once the priority areas were identified and the national institutions had selected technical cooperation activities for each area, UNDP and OAS prepared preparatory assistance projects to support the national institutions in identifying the international cooperation needs in those areas. By the end of 1991, out of the six projects which were being implemented in the areas of poverty and population, ecology and environment, and telecommunications and biotechnology, a second phase was developed for four projects in order to allow the Government to establish the basis for bilateral and multilateral negotiations, as well as for future UNDP and OAS programmes in Mexico. At this stage, two areas which are being addressed as a matter of priority, namely, poverty and population, and ecology and environment, are being extended until December 1992 in order to complete the international technical cooperation programmes in these areas before launching medium-term cooperation activities in 1993.

B. United Nations Environment Programme

30. At the general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and OAS, the Working Group on Environment was established with the participation of representatives of various agencies of OAS and the United Nations, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC).

31. The Working Group formulated a set of proposals for joint action concerning the priority projects of the Action Plan for the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted by the Governments of the region at the Seventh Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Port-of-Spain in October 1990. These proposals referred to joint activities in the following projects: regional information exchange service; environmental training network; development of environmental legislation; development planning and environment; environmental education; environmental management and development control in urban areas; protection of natural areas and cultural heritage; management of tropical and subtropical forests; environmental impact on marine and coastal ecosystems; management of national and multinational watersheds; and saving and efficient use of existing and alternative energy sources.

32. The Working Group also formulated the following proposals for general cooperation between UNEP and OAS:

(a) More frequent contacts between the Executive Director of UNEP and the Secretary-General of OAS;

(b) Convening of periodic meetings between the legislative bodies of the two organizations, or at least between the presidents of these bodies;

(c) Periodic reviews of the environmental agendas of UNEP and OAS, with a view to determining the precise points of interaction and possibilities for joint action;

(d) Collaboration between UNEP and OAS in promoting national policy debate on issues such as global warming and climate change;

(e) Review by OAS and UNEP of ways in which the former might be encouraged to implement key items within the UNEP work programme that are relevant to the Americas, particularly since OAS has operational capabilities;

(f) Testing by OAS of possible solutions and management strategies on issues such as polar ecology and general ecosystem strategies, including carbon sink maintenance in such areas as the Amazon region.

33. Pursuant to the proposals of the general meeting held in New York in May 1991, OAS participated in the meeting of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group of the Action Plan, held at Washington, D.C. in July 1991.

34. In accordance with the conclusions of that meeting, OAS is participating in the following inter-agency working groups to develop the priority projects of the Action Plan:

(a) Regional information exchange service;

(b) Environmental training network;

(c) Environmental development management (which includes areas of the Action Plan for the strengthening of institutions and the participation of citizens, the development of policies and legislation, and for development planning and environment);

(d) Management of national and multinational watersheds.

C. World Food Programme

35. The World Food Programme (WFP) has no formal cooperation agreement with OAS. Nevertheless, at field level, cooperation and consultation take place. In 1991 and 1992 the two most salient examples were in Nicaragua and in Haiti.

36. Assistance by WFP is targeted to the poorest segments of the population: the rural poor, including small farms and landless peasants, as well as pre-school and primary schoolchildren, nursing mothers, and other disadvantaged groups in rural and urban areas. In 25 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, WFP has a portfolio of 67 ongoing projects for a total value of approximately $636 million. Low income, food deficit countries such as Bolivia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua and Peru receive approximately 65 per cent of resources, while middle income countries receive the remaining 35 per cent. The main sectors of concentration of the WFP-assisted projects in the region were human resources development (44 per cent), economic and social infrastructure (14 per cent), promotion of agriculture (10 per cent), dairy development (11 per cent), forestry (4 per cent) and others (14 per cent).

37. In 1990, during the election process in Nicaragua in which OAS and the United Nations played a key role, WFP and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the repatriation of around 60,000 civilians from Honduras and Costa Rica. The OAS operation terminated in July 1991 and WFP assistance, which cost a total of $2.7 million, terminated in June 1992.

38. OAS and WFP also cooperated on the assessment of the need for humanitarian assistance to Haiti. In March 1992, as a follow-up of an OAS mission fielded in December 1991, WFP fielded an emergency food aid assessment mission to Haiti. The mission designed an emergency operation programme of assistance to Haitian returnees from the Dominican Republic and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, which was approved by the Executive Director of WFP on 3 April 1992. There is also good coordination and collaboration between OAS and WFP at the country office level in Haiti.

D. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

39. The United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has strengthened its relations and exchanges of information with bodies of OAS working in various subject areas. During the period under consideration, OAS officials participated in forums organized by ECLAC and vice-versa, submitting reports and focusing actions on topics of interest to both institutions. In particular, this collaboration has taken the form of activities in the areas of poverty, youth, women and the environment.

40. In response to agreements and resolutions adopted by the international community in which concern for the problems of poverty as an area of priority for the 1990s was expressed, regional and subregional seminars and meetings have been held on the subject to systematize the exchange of experiences and to design actions and programmes involving cooperation between countries. In this context, in May 1992, a subregional workshop on policies and programmes to combat poverty and promote health was convened at Montevideo by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Inter-American Centre for Integrated Social Development of OAS and by PAHO.

41. In the area of women's issues, ECLAC and the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW) have cooperated closely and have participated in meetings and technical seminars organized by both institutions. Notable among these were the fifth session of the Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, convened by ECLAC in Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay during 1992 as part of the project on "Improvement of the legal and institutional framework for the incorporation of women into development in selected countries of Latin America". ECLAC was represented at the session of the General Assembly of OAS held in Santiago, Chile, in June 1991.

42. ECLAC made major efforts to consolidate inter-agency action with respect to youth-related activities during this period. These efforts took the form of three inter-agency meetings and other actions which culminated in the formulation of a Declaration 3/ adopted by various institutions of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations, including OAS.

43. With respect to the environment, ECLAC participated in two meetings held in Brazil and co-sponsored by OAS: a seminar on "Ecological disorder in the Amazon: scientific knowledge, social actors and political will in alternative-building", held at Belém do Para in November 1990, and a conference on the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR), held at Foz do Iguaçu in March 1992 on the topic of "Environment and transboundary issues".

44. The OAS and ECLAC secretariats have continued to participate by mutual agreement in technical meetings in the statistical field, sponsored by each other and by Latin American Governments.

45. The Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning maintains with OAS a Joint Programme on Social Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Programme includes training activities in the area of social project formulation and evaluation, and has begun to support the setting up of social project banks which are information systems through which large numbers of small- and medium-scale social projects can be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis. These systems are especially useful to the social investment funds which have proliferated in Latin America in recent years.

46. ECLAC also cooperated with OAS in the area of agricultural development by supporting the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). In this context, ECLAC participated in a seminar on macroeconomic adjustment, structural change, agriculture and rural poverty, organized by IICA and held at Buenos Aires from 28 to 31 May 1992, and provided information for the preparation of an agricultural data bank being set up by IICA. It also participated in a seminar on developing the export capacity of farms and the role of management in small- and medium-sized businesses, which was organized by IICA and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries in Uruguay and held at Montevideo on 1 and 2 July 1992, and in a workshop on policy information and analysis in the agro-food sector held at San José,

Costa Rica, from 4 to 7 November 1991. In addition, it elaborated analyses and comments on official documents of IICA, entitled respectively, "Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture" and "Report of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture".

47. Since November 1991, ECLAC has collaborated in the preparation of a proposal for a project on river basin management in Latin America and, in general, on the topic of natural resources management.

48. In the context of cooperation between OAS and the Latin American Demographic Centre (CELADE) during the period from June 1991 to June 1992, activities were carried out with two bodies attached to OAS, namely, the Inter-American Statistical Training Centre (CIENES), based at Santiago, and the Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI), based at Montevideo.

49. CELADE organized jointly with CIENES and the Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina, a "Technical meeting on new statistical methodologies applied to demography", which took place from 2 to 4 September 1991 at ECLAC headquarters at Santiago and was attended by 15 professionals. Three documents were presented at the meeting and were published.

50. CELADE has collaborated with IACI, through its Latin American Population Documentation System (DOCPAL), providing it with the results of interactive searches and copies of documents not available in the host country of IACI.

51. Both CIENES and IACI regularly receive the periodic publications of CELADE, including the semi-annual Demographic Bulletin, the semi-annual DOCPAL: Latin American Population Abstracts and the thrice-yearly Notas de Población.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

52. The programme of cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the secretariat of OAS, particularly with the OAS Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, was established in 1982. The programme has been an important tool used in obtaining valuable legal expertise from the OAS secretariat on the promotion of refugee law, and in carrying out a study of protection problems and the legal situation of refugees, persons seeking asylum and displaced persons in Latin America.

53. Since 1982, the Programme has gone through four stages. As with regard to the fourth stage, a study of the legal status of Central American refugee women and children in camps, within the framework of the Concerted Plan of Action of the International Conference on Central American Refugees, contacts have been established with the OAS Secretariat for Legal Affairs. In December 1991, UNHCR provided the funds allocated for such research to the General Secretariat.

54. The Legal Department of OAS will begin the study upon submission of material being compiled by UNHCR regional offices in Mexico and Costa Rica relating to refugee camp experiences in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua. To date, two studies conducted in Mexico and Belize respectively, have been finalized by UNHCR and submitted to the OAS Department of Legal Affairs. The OAS study focused on the protection and legal status of refugees, displaced and returnee children in the aforementioned countries. International regional instruments and domestic legislation in each country are also examined in connection with this research. The remaining studies in the other Central American countries are expected to be completed by the end of August 1992.

55. Close coordination was also maintained with OAS in an attempt to achieve a regional burden-sharing arrangement regarding Haitian asylum-seekers following the ouster of Haitian President Aristide in September 1991.

F. World Food Council

56. During the reporting period, collaboration has taken the form mainly of an exchange of documentation of mutual interest. In the past, however, OAS had actively participated in World Food Council (WFC) interregional ministerial consultations dealing with the formulation and implementation of food policies and strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean on the basis of a food-strategy concept originally launched by WFC. Also, WFC has urged Latin American and Caribbean countries to formulate specific domestic hunger-alleviation targets and supporting programmes in order to translate into action the goals which were set out by the WFC and later integrated into the United Nations International Development Strategy for this decade. This constitutes another line of possible future cooperation with organizations such as OAS. Opportunities to strengthen collaboration between WFC and OAS exist and the Council will try, in the near future, to encourage renewed joint efforts.

G. International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

57. The International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), in keeping with its mandate to stimulate and assist through research, training and information activities for the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process, has paid particular attention to the development of activities in the American region.

58. Pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 45/10 of 25 October 1990 on cooperation between the United Nations and OAS, the Institute's work has encompassed areas which have been identified as significant in attaining developmental progress.

59. During 1991, INSTRAW carried out activities in the American region within five of its approved programmes; namely, statistics; women, environment and sustainable development; communications materials for women and development; rural women and credit; and scholarships.

60. As part of activities by INSTRAW under its ongoing programme on statistics, the Institute collaborated with the Centro de Investigación Social, Formación y Estudios de la Mujer (CISFEM) of Caracas by presenting a technical paper at a national workshop on statistics on women. The workshop was organized by CISFEM on 23 and 24 May 1992 at Caracas, with the objective of sensitizing producers and users of statistics to the inadequacy of current concepts and methods as a reflection of the full contribution, participation, status and role of women in society.

61. INSTRAW participated in a meeting on women and the environment organized by Development Alternatives for Women in a New Era, held in Barbados on 23 and 24 May 1991. This was in preparation for the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment "Partners in Life" held at Miami, Florida, from 4 to 8 November 1991. Three activists from the Caribbean region were sponsored by the Institute to attend the event and present their success stories related to global ecological issues. The Global Assembly was the last of a series of four regional meetings on women and the environment which were organized in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Brazil from 3 to 14 June 1992.

62. In keeping with recommendations of the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and OAS, a working paper on previous involvement of INSTRAW with the OAS system and on the activities which the Institute had carried out in OAS member countries was presented at the first general meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations and OAS, held in New York in May 1991. These activities related to issues of women and development, and encompassed the areas of statistics, gender studies, communications, environment, energy and access to credit. The Institute also expressed its willingness to continue collaboration with OAS within the framework of the Institute's approved research, training and information programmes.

63. Within the Institute's programme on communications materials for women and development funded by the Government of Italy, INSTRAW organized the first planning meeting for the three participating institutions from Argentina, Colombia and the Dominican Republic which were selected to carry out country profiles on existing communications systems and resources relevant for women in development in their respective countries. The results of these studies have been presented in consultative seminars held in the three countries in July 1992. Phase two of the project will see the actual production of specific communications materials for women and development.

64. As a follow up to the interregional training seminar on the means of improving banking for rural women, organized in November 1990 by INSTRAW, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Mediterranean Institute of Management, INSTRAW participated in a regional seminar on

"Economic Progress of Rural Women in Latin America and the Caribbean", held at San José, Costa Rica, from 17 to 22 June 1991, organized by IFAD in collaboration with IICA. The seminar analysed the rural Latin American and Caribbean woman's economic role and needs, access to production-related extension and training services and to credit, and her participation in micro-enterprises.

65. During the 1990-1991 biennium, INSTRAW, under its scholarships programme, provided support to Latin American researchers. A scholar from the INSTRAW focal point in Cuba undertook research during the summer of 1991, at the Institute's headquarters, on the issue of women, environment and sustainable development. The Institute also sponsored the participation of three researchers to a meeting organized by the Grupo Condición Femenina of the Consejo Latinoamericano de Ciencias Sociales of Santiago, Chile, and the Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The objective of the meeting was to make a comparative analysis of the theoretical and methodological approaches used by researchers in academic research on women's issues. The meeting was held from 6 to 8 May 1991 at Santo Domingo.

66. The Institute also maintains close contact with ECLAC as ex-officio member of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees and sends copies of all its publications on a regular basis for dissemination in the region.

H. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

67. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) participated in the meeting of lead agencies held in New York on 13 February 1991 in preparation for the first general meeting on cooperation between the United Nations and OAS. For the latter meeting held in New York from 15 to 17 May 1991, FAO contributed a document entitled the "FAO programme on rural development: Underlying Concepts and Activities for Latin America and the Caribbean". A statement delivered on that occasion by the FAO regional representative for Latin America and the Caribbean highlighted the major policy goals and activities of FAO. Salient activities of FAO relevant to OAS during the period from 1990 to 1992 include the following:

(a) FAO organized two inter-agency high-level missions in Suriname and Paraguay in April 1990. The results of both missions confirmed that the problems of access to land and the establishment of a viable legal system were still important in these countries. Both missions called attention to special problems of indigenous populations and legal recognition of their rights, as well as to issues linked to sustainable use of resources;

(b) The Sixth Government Consultation on follow-up to the World Conference Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in October 1991. It highlighted, inter alia, problems of peasant participation in rural development, and discussed the implementation of the FAO Plan of Action for the Integration of

Women in the region. The Consultation recommended the establishment of a Technical Cooperation Network for Rural Development in Latin America;

(c) In November 1991, the FAO Conference approved the third progress report on the World Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Programme of Action which assessed overall progress in rural poverty alleviation, and achievements as well as problems;

(d) The 1991 FAO Conference also approved a new Plan of Action for People's Participation which could have far-reaching effects in the region;

(e) In conjunction with the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI), an organization which works in coordination with OAS, FAO organizes regular meetings of the FAO/IASI Working Group on Agricultural Statistics of the Conference of Governmental Statisticians of the Americas. The last meeting took place in March 1990 at Santiago;

(f) At the country level, contacts have been maintained between the FAO representatives and the directors of national OAS offices to exchange mutual information and discuss possibilities for jointly undertaking activities.

68. FAO has participated in several events organized by OAS, namely, the Tenth Inter-American Statistical Conference, held at Aguascalientes, Mexico, in November 1990, at which as a FAO representative presented a document related to "Agricultural Censuses"; at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (CIES), held at Washington, D.C., in March 1991; and the twenty-first session of the General Assembly of OAS, held at Nassau, the Bahamas, in May 1992.

I. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

69. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has mainly collaborated with OAS through its subsidiary organs, namely, the Inter-American Council for Education, Science and Culture, and decentralized bodies such as the Inter-American Indian Institute and the Inter-American Children's Institute.

70. UNESCO has also attended regularly General Assemblies of OAS and has actively participated in its Commission for Educational Matters. No joint activities or cooperation in specific projects have taken place, thus far, however.

J. International Civil Aviation Organization

71. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) cooperates with OAS through exchange of documentation and invitations to relevant meetings. OAS is regularly invited to the sessions of the Assembly of ICAO, and ICAO attends meetings convened by the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference of OAS which are of interest to the ICAO work programme in the field of aeronautical telecommunications.

72. ICAO was represented at the meeting between members of the secretariats of the organizations of the United Nations system and OAS in May 1991, and provided factual information on the work of ICAO in areas of common interest. ICAO is ready to cooperate more closely with OAS in the development of relevant technical cooperation projects in the Americas.

K. World Health Organization

73. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) participated in the meeting between the secretariats of OAS and organizations of the United Nations system, held in New York in May 1991. At that meeting, health-related subjects of common interest to the two systems were examined. The PAHO delegation also represented WHO at this event. WHO continues to be in contact with the secretariat of OAS in order to strengthen the mechanisms of coordination between the two institutions in the area of technical cooperation.

74. Work continued in connection with the project on "Democracy and Health", which was initiated in 1990 in collaboration with OAS. Under this project, technical cooperation agreements on health issues have been established with 20 legislatures in the region. At the same time, there has been an effort to form ties with the Latin American Parliament, the Andean Parliament, the Central American Parliament, the MERCOSUR Parliament, and the corresponding body in the Caribbean with a view to promoting the definition of legislative agendas in health at the regional, subregional and national levels.

75. In October 1991, PAHO entered into an agreement with OAS and the IDB to participate in the World's Fair to be held at Seville, Spain, in 1992. The three organizations, in conjunction with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, will form an institutional consortium that will mount an exhibit entitled "The Challenge of America" in the Inter-American system pavilion, which will be located, together with the pavilions of the countries in the Western Hemisphere, in the complex that will house exhibits from all over the Americas.

76. The General Assembly of OAS and the PAHO/WHO Directing Council called upon the international community to intensify its cooperation with the countries affected or threatened by cholera; urged the international and regional agencies concerned to give more priority to granting the technical and financial cooperation that may be requested by the countries; and

expressed appreciation for the organization's response in support of the member Governments' efforts to contain the epidemic. It urged the Governments to report any case of cholera immediately; not to apply to countries affected by the epidemic restrictions which are not justified from the standpoint of public health; and to establish and execute national plans for the prevention and control of cholera which identify the most vulnerable areas and population groups. The Council requested the director to strengthen measures that would ensure a prompt and effective response to the needs of countries affected by cholera; mobilize financial resources; continue activities for the development and evaluation of effective new vaccines against cholera; and prepare, in close collaboration with the member countries and other cooperation agencies, a long-term plan of investment in health and environment for meeting the infrastructural needs in those areas.

77. Collaboration between PAHO and WHO with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (CICAD) and OAS has been carried out through the inter-organizational group that was established to ensure more effective utilization of technical and financial resources and to avoid duplications in the assistance provided to the countries. The organization has also participated in reciprocal cooperation with the Quito regional programme on education for the prevention of drug use, which led to the approval of an inter-organizational plan endorsed by the Secretary-General of OAS and the Director of PAHO/WHO. PAHO/WHO is also providing technical advisory services to aid in the development of the CICAD/OAS Regional Drug Abuse Programme.

78. The PAHO Disaster Preparedness Programme, in conjunction with OAS, was chosen to serve as the regional institution for training in disaster management in the region of the Americas for UNDP and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator. This training, which is aimed at UNDP resident representatives and national officials who act as focal points for disaster preparedness within national development plans, focuses on the role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in providing a coordinated response to disasters. In addition, training sessions with consular personnel were continued.

79. During 1991, PAHO continued to collaborate with the International Support and Verification Commission formed by the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and OAS to support the process of repatriation, resettlement and reconciliation in Nicaragua, particularly with regard to the health needs of the population. The second phase of this process, initiated in 1991, is attempting to facilitate the transition towards self-sufficiency in Nicaragua, and PAHO activities in the health sector have been aimed at supporting this effort.

L. International Monetary Fund

80. As in previous years, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has maintained contact with OAS by participating in special conferences and meetings dealing with specific topics or groups of countries. Also, both the staff of IMF and OAS maintain informal contact related to the economic and financial development of certain countries of the Western Hemisphere. In March 1991, staff of the Western Hemisphere Department of IMF attended the twenty-fifth annual meeting at the ministerial level of the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, held at Washington, D.C.

M. International Telecommunication Union

81. Much of the cooperation between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and OAS during the period under review was in the context of the Americas Regional Development Conference held at Acapulco, Mexico, from March to April 1992. There was very close cooperation during the preparation and holding of this important conference. This was either directly with OAS or through the Inter-American Telecommunications Conference.

82. Nine of the resolutions adopted at the Acapulco Conference called for cooperation between ITU and OAS in the following areas: telecommunications; rural areas and low-income strata; telecommunications development indicators; monitoring, evaluation and progress review; creation of a favourable investment climate; utilization of the radiolectric spectrum for mobile services and broadcasting; harmonization of telecommunications systems of the Americas; interconnection of existing and future telecommunication networks; and human resources strategic planning. The Conference also adopted a recommendation on regional aims and objectives in telecommunications development within the year 2000.

83. It is evident that the years ahead will see even closer cooperation between ITU and OAS, particularly in the follow up of the resolutions and recommendations cited above.

84. In addition, ITU is currently holding consultations with OAS on the joint publication of two books on Regulation of the Telecommunications Sector and Financing of the Telecommunications Projects.

N. International Maritime Organization

85. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and OAS concluded an agreement of cooperation in October 1974. Within the framework of that agreement, the two organizations have carried out joint or complementary activities, mainly in the fields of marine pollution and control, facilitation of maritime traffic and maritime search and rescue. In connection with this and other areas of common interest, IMO would be pleased to consider further measures of cooperation as may be proposed by OAS.

O. International Fund for Agricultural Development

86. By the end of 1991, assistance by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the Latin American and Caribbean region under the regular programme amounted to SDR 405.3 million (approximately US$ 501.8 million) in loans and grants for 56 projects in 25 countries. Of the total project costs of US$ 1,502.7 million, IFAD contributes 33.4 per cent. Other external donors provided US$ 566.2 million (37.7 per cent) and the recipients US$ 434.7 million (28.9 per cent).

87. IFAD and OAS are currently negotiating a cooperation agreement. A similar agreement is also being negotiated with the Economic System for Latin America.

88. A technical cooperation agreement between the Government of Guatemala and OAS will be established to carry out a feasibility study for a second phase of the IFAD/IDB-funded project "Generation and Transfer of Agricultural Technology" scheduled for early 1993.

89. In Dominica, OAS finances the monitoring and evaluation component of the IFAD loan for the Integrated Rural Development Project at a cost of US$ 0.123 million. The government contribution is US$ 1,377 million and the total project cost is US$ 2,992 million.

P. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

90. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) has no institutional relationship with OAS. A number of members of OAS are, however, contracting parties to GATT and are active participants in the normal work of GATT and in the Uruguay round table negotiations. Developing member States of OAS have been provided with technical assistance by the GATT secretariat.

Notes

1/ S/24340.

2/ S/24361.

3/ ECLAC Joint Declaration of United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations on policies relating to youth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LC/G.1730), Santiago, Chile, June 1992.

UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/498/Add.1
6 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 21

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MEETING BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM AND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, HELD AT UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS FROM 15 TO 17 MAY 1991

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I. GENERAL

1. In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 45/10 of 25 October 1990, consultations regarding preparations for a general meeting were held between the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and the Assistant Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS). As a result of those consultations, it was decided to hold the general meeting in New York from 15 to 17 May 1991. Following consultations between their respective offices, it was also decided that the meeting would be inaugurated by both Secretaries-General.

2. During the above consultations, priority areas for consideration by the meeting were identified by OAS. Accordingly, the relevant lead agencies from the United Nations and OAS were also identified (see the annex to the present report). Those agencies were requested to prepare working papers within their areas of competence, for the consideration of participants.

3. On 13 February 1991, a pre-coordination meeting was held in New York between officials of the substantive department of the Secretariat and representatives of the liaison offices of United Nations specialized agencies on matters relating to the forthcoming meeting.

4. During the following month, the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship and support staff visited the headquarters of OAS and reviewed the arrangements for the meeting with the Assistant Secretary-General and senior officials of the OAS General Secretariat and its specialized agencies and commissions.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

5. The general meeting between representatives of OAS and the United Nations system of organizations was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 to 17 May 1991.

6. The meeting was opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States.

7. Representatives of the following departments and offices of the United Nations and other organizations of the United Nations system participated in the meeting: Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship; Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services; Department of Political and Security Council Affairs; Department for Disarmament Affairs; Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Department of Technical Cooperation for Development; Department of Public Information; United Nations Centre for Human

Rights; United Nations Office at Vienna/Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM); United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); United Nations University; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); United Nations Centre for Human Settlements; Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); World Food Council (WFC); United Nations International Drug Control Programme; International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW); International Labour Organisation (ILO); Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO); World Health Organization (WHO); World Bank/International Finance Corporation; and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

8. The following departments of the General Secretariat, as well as commissions and agencies of the Organization of American States also participated: Executive Secretariat for Legal Affairs; Executive Secretariat for Education, Science and Culture; Executive Secretariat for Economic and Social Affairs; Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM); Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO); Inter-American Defense Board (IADB); Pan-American Institute of Geography and History; Inter-American Children's Institute (IACI); Inter-American Indian Institute (IAII); and Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

9. The meeting held three plenary sessions from 15 to 17 May 1991 and two sessions for the substantive work of the eight working groups. The first plenary session adopted the following agenda:

1. Strengthening cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and Organization of American States systems in:

   (a) Political matters;

   (b) Economic and social affairs.

2. Environment.

3. Drug abuse control.

4. Women and development.

5. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief.

6. Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and Organization of American States systems at the national level.

7. Children and development.

8. Rural development and agriculture.

9. Indian people and development.

10. Conclusions and recommendations.

III. STATEMENTS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

10. The Secretary-General of the United Nations welcomed the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States and their respective representatives. He noted that it was the first meeting between the secretariats of the world Organization and one of the oldest regional organizations. He expressed his pleasure that during their respective terms of office, an era of collaboration had been launched to promote peace on the American continent and the development of its people.

11. The Secretary-General stated that at the political level both he and the Secretary-General of OAS had maintained close cooperation with regard to the peace process in Central America. In that connection, he noted their joint initiatives and their participation in the International Verification and Follow-up Commission following the signing of the Esquipulas II accords, and at the request of the Central American Presidents in September 1989, the joint establishment of the International Support and Verification Commission. He noted also that their two organizations had established excellent cooperation in tne electoral process in Nicaragua and Haiti.

12. The Secretary-General drew attention to the established areas of cooperation between their two organizations, which included the participation of OAS in the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America; country-level meetings between resident representatives of the two organizations, as well as individual agencies and organizations in economic and social sectors. He noted also that the two organizations and their respective specialized bodies and commissions had a history of collaboration in areas of common interest.

13. The Secretary-General expressed the view that the primary focus of the deliberations should be the strengthening of cooperation and coordination between the two organizations. In conclusion, he expressed his appreciation for the contribution of OAS and its membership to the work of the United Nations, and his confidence that the meeting would make a positive contribution to their common endeavours.

14. In his statement, the Secretary-General of OAS expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to address the meeting and stated that the mandate given to him by the General Assembly of OAS had reiterated that he should continue

to adopt the measures necessary to promote and broaden cooperation between OAS and the United Nations.

15. The Secretary-General of OAS emphasized that the above mandates would provide an institutional framework whereby the valuable tradition of cooperation would result in specific activities of coordination for the benefit of member States. He said that a first step would be, within this process, to define the activities which were to be coordinated.

16. The Secretary-General expressed the view that the three concrete results which should evolve from the meeting were: (a) an agreement to establish instruments and mechanisms which would intensify the exchange of information at headquarters and in the field necessary for the coordination of activities; (b) the institution of a flexible and expeditious process of identifying programmes, projects and activities suitable for cooperation between the two organizations; and (c) the establishment of follow-up arrangements.

17. In conclusion, the Secretary-General commended the new atmosphere, which provided the opportunity to work more closely for the benefit of member States. The cooperation between the two organizations on Central America was an historic step and constituted a significant development both in the relationship between the two organizations and for a dialogue within the hemisphere.

18. Statements were also made by the Executive Secretary of ECLAC and the Under-Secretary-General of the Centre for Human Rights, in which they outlined the close working relationship of their respective bodies with the Organization of American States and its commissions and agencies.

IV. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

19. The general meeting was co-chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship, and by the Assistant Secretary-General of OAS. Statements were made by 21 participants representing the United Nations system of organizations and OAS, in support of strengthening cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and OAS.

20. Eight working groups were established on the basis of agenda items 2 to 9 and were co-chaired by the representatives of lead agencies from the two organizations.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21. At its closing session on 17 May 1991, the general meeting decided to take note of the conclusions and recommendations of the working groups and refer them to the relevant authorities for follow-up action. Summaries of the conclusions and recommendations are set out below.

A. Environment

22. The working group on the "Environment" recommended:

(a) The exchange of information;

(b) The holding of joint meetings;

(c) The exchange of skills;

(d) Joint development of postgraduate training in planning and management of the coastal and oceanic environment;

(e) Joint coordination in the administration of protected areas and cultural heritage;

(f) Coordination in the management of tropical and subtropical forests in the Americas;

(g) Coordination of integrated coastal zone management and the management of Exclusive Economic Zones;

(h) Coordination in the management of national and multinational watersheds;

(i) Joint cooperation in regional ecologically sustainable industrialization and energy conservation;

(j) Closer collaboration at the policy and technical levels;

(k) Convening an inter-sectoral meeting on environment, development, natural resources and energy.

B. Drug abuse control

23. The working group for coordination between the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission recommended the following:

(a) Assistance to Governments in the harmonization of drug legislation;

(b) Strengthening of the administration of justice;

(c) Training of officials;

(d) Joint action by the two organizations in preventive education in collaboration with UNESCO; and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO;

(e) Collaboration in the collection of statistical data, including the establishment of a computerized system for the collection, storage and dissemination of such data;

(f) Preparation of international treaties on control of drugs and a model regulation.

C. Women and development

24. The working group on "Women and development" recommended that the United Nations and OAS should work together in the following areas:

(a) Economic and employment generation for women:

(i) Research on the informal sector;

(ii) Policy guidelines for sensitizing decision makers to supporting women's roles in the informal sector in the form of policy development portfolios;

(iii) Development of programmes at the level of the industrial sector, specifically targeting women;

(iv) Training of women in entrepreneurship and management;

(v) The development of small-scale industries;

(vi) Development of industries and technologies for women's activities related to the food cycle;

(vii) Establishment of credit modalities for women;

(b) Environment and women:

(i) Participation in the Inter-American Consultation on Women and Environment, October 1991;

(ii) Provision of Spanish translation of basic substantive research conducted by INSTRAW.

D. Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief

25. The working group on "Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief" recommended:

(a) Development of a work plan by the General Secretariat of OAS in consultation with the Inter-American Emergency Aid Committee and the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator to address the current

challenges in emergency response and to exploit opportunities for United Nations and OAS collaboration under their existing agreement;

(b) Consideration of a joint post-disaster assessment of impact and needs;

(c) Establishment of reconstruction programming and project formulation following disasters;

(d) Inclusion of disaster mitigation and prevention in development planning and project formulation;

(e) Formulation of policy and programme recommendations for multilateral and bilateral development financing agencies to incorporate natural hazard risk assessments in project appraisals;

(f) Development of vulnerability reduction programmes for urban watersheds, and for the agriculture, energy, health, transportation and tourism sectors;

(g) Development of hazard assessment programmes for landslides, floods and desertification as part of integrated development planning studies;

(h) Establishment of a focal point for disaster mitigation, preparedness and relief activities;

(i) Continuation of cooperation in the field of disaster management training and awareness promotion;

(j) Training programmes in vulnerability reduction in agriculture, energy, health, transportation and tourism sectors;

(k) Exploring the possibility of joint training programmes aimed at trainers and practising professionals in the formulation of vulnerability reduction for lifeline networks and other critical facilities;

(l) Development of effective information systems and use of computer-based information for hazard mitigations and exploring emergency management.

E. Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States systems at the national level

26. The working group on "Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS systems at the national level" recommended:

(a) The establishment of a mechanism for a sustained central role for Governments in consultation with organizations and agencies in respect of the formulation, delivery and evaluation of programmes and projects;

(b) Coordination roles for the director of an office of the OAS General Secretariat in a country comparable to that carried out by United Nations Resident Coordinators;

(c) A maximum increase in the flow of information between representatives of the two organizations on programmes and projects and at the earliest stages of the programming process;

(d) For the representatives in the field, there should be:

(i) Regular meetings;

(ii) Combined programming exercises;

(iii) Co-funding and execution of projects;

(iv) The establishment of computerized communication between the Government and the technical cooperation agencies;

(v) Sharing of information, particularly statistical data;

(vi) Workshops and seminars;

(vii) Studies and publications;

(e) The continuation of formal channels of communication for field representatives with their headquarters and between organizations themselves.

F. Children and development

27. The working group on "Children and development" recommended:

(a) An exchange of studies, and of policy and operational documents;

(b) Identification and establishment of new mechanisms for communication, or reinforcement of existing ones in order to determine specific activities leading to future cooperation;

(c) Renewed interest in the progress of a research project undertaken jointly by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and OAS on refugee children;

(d) Calling the attention of other international agencies, such as UNICEF, PAHO and the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, to further research and promote improvements in the legal status of refugee children.

G. Rural development and agriculture

28. The working group on "Rural development and agriculture" reached the following conclusions and recommendations:

(a) Continuation of cooperation in activities already under way in the areas of cooperation in animal health and plant protection;

(b) Potential areas of cooperation in rural development and sustainable agriculture;

(c) Possible participation by OAS agencies in the FAO Administrative Coordination Committee and its task force on rural development;

(d) Issuance by FAO of an invitation to all agencies to attend the Sixth Intergovernmental Consultation on Rural Development, which was to be held in Bolivia in October 1991;

(e) Future cooperation in fisheries, water resources, food processing and technology.

H. Indian people and development

29. The working group on "Indian people and development" recommended:

(a) The convening of an inter-agency meeting on indigenous people;

(b) Promoting attention to indigenous development (rights and social sustainability) in international conferences;

(c) The joint establishment of guidelines to be followed by multilateral and bilateral agencies when assessing technical assistance projects related to indigenous people;

(d) The establishment of a programme of support for indigenous organizations and groups in the formulation and implementation of their own indigenous development projects;

(e) Promotion of the ratification of the Indigenous and Tribal Populations Convention (No. 169) of 1989;

(f) Providing support and advice to the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights with respect to the elaboration of an inter-American instrument on principles relating to indigenous rights;

(g) Development of a programme to further knowledge of indigenous and human rights;

(h) Joint development of a new collaborative cooperative relationship between ILO and the Inter-American Indian Institute;

(i) Collaboration to support activities undertaken for the 1993 International Year of Indigenous People.

ANNEX

United Nations and Organization of American States lead agencies

Agenda item	Lead agency/organization
Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
	OAS General Secretariat, Inter-American Bank (IDB) and Inter-American Defense Board (IADB)
Drug abuse control	United Nations Office at Vienna
	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
Women and development	United Nations Development Fund for Women and International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
	Inter-American Commission of Women
Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
	OAS General Secretariat, IDB and IADB
Strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of American States systems at the national level	Office of the United Nations Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation and United Nations Development Programme
	Office of the Assistant Secretary-General of OAS
Children and development	United Nations Children's Fund
	Inter-American Children's Institute

Agenda item	Lead agency/organization
Rural development and agriculture	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and IDB
Indian people and development	International Labour Organisation
	Inter-American Indian Institute

UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/499
5 October 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda items 12, 43, 47, 78, 79,
81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 86

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

LAUNCHING OF GLOBAL NEGOTIATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT

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Letter dated 2 October 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77 adopted on 1 October 1992 on the occasion of their sixteenth annual meeting, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77, I would highly appreciate it if you would arrange for the present letter and its annex to be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12, 43, 47, 78, 79, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85 and 86.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of 77
New York

ANNEX

Declaration of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Group of 77, adopted on 1 October 1992 at their sixteenth annual meeting

1. The sixteenth annual meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 was held in New York on 1 October 1992.

2. The Ministers welcomed the admission to membership of the United Nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The admission of these new members strengthens the ideal of universality of the United Nations.

3. The Ministers also welcomed the admission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as full member of the Group of 77.

4. The Ministers reaffirmed the Tehran Declaration: Towards a New Partnership for Development, adopted by the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 on 23 November 1991 held in the Islamic Republic of Iran to prepare for UNCTAD VIII.

5. The Ministers welcomed the results of the Tenth Conference of the Heads of State or Government of the Non-aligned countries held in Jakarta from September 1-6, 1992, and noted their importance for the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

INTRODUCTION

6. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 agreed that the widening gap between developed and developing countries is one of the most urgent problems threatening the international community and that the present juncture in history is a defining moment which provides a unique opportunity for strengthening international cooperation for development.

7. They stressed that urgent concerted efforts by the whole of the international community are necessary to put into practice in the international economic system the agreements and commitments reached in the economic, social and related fields of the United Nations system.

8. The Ministers highlighted the efforts being undertaken by their own countries towards these goals and called upon developed countries to exert the necessary political will to fulfil their obligations in this regard, thus creating the conditions necessary for economic and social development for all peoples.

9. The Ministers, reaffirming their abiding commitment to the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the internationally accepted right to development, stressed that the United Nations system has a vital role to play in the attainment of key development objectives, especially in the developing countries. In this context, they stressed the importance of concerted efforts to enhance the capacity and the effectiveness of the United Nations system in order to make it more responsive to the development needs, priorities and objectives of the developing countries.

II

Economic and social environment

10. The Ministers underlined that with increasing interdependence of nations, the increasing globalization, the world-wide movement towards market-oriented reform, the goal of sustained economic development of developing countries is overwhelmingly dependent on a favorable international economic environment. The promotion of economic growth and development through international cooperation will enable the attainment of the welfare of the present and future generations of mankind and will also bring rich dividends in strengthening peace and security.

11. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the continuing deterioration of the world economy, in particular, the economic and social situation in most developing countries which is due largely to the prevailing international economic environment which remains heavily weighted against the developing countries. Efforts by the developing countries to foster growth and development continue to be frustrated by denial of market access, the disturbing trend in the negative flow of global financial resources, insufficiency of foreign investment flows, a crushing debt burden, restrictions on the transfer of technology and the inequities in the global, monetary, financial and trade systems. These factors have further compounded the predicament of the Least Developed Countries. They urged that the tendency towards the marginalization of the developing countries should be reversed and in this context, stressed that a high-level political agreement between the developed and developing countries is required to redress this situation. They reaffirmed that there is an urgent need to resume the North-South dialogue on a constructive basis as an instrument for the promotion of the economic growth and development of developing countries in order to achieve a just and equitable international economic order.

12. The Ministers expressed their view that the emerging global economic order should provide for more equitable economic opportunities for all nations, important features of which should be the strengthening of a free, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, effective macro-economic coordination, and fiscal discipline to ensure stable conditions conducive to development in the world

economy. In this context, the coordination of international macroeconomic policies should be broadened to take into account the concerns of all countries, in particular developing countries. Such coordination should be directed towards global economic growth and social development so as to achieve equitable distribution of the fruits of progress through an expanded world economy. The trend towards new and often unrelated conditionalities must be reversed.

13. The Ministers noted that the recent positive changes in the political sphere have opened a real opportunity for social and economic issues to be addressed in a more comprehensive way. In this context, they reaffirmed the importance and continued validity of the Eighteenth Special Session Declaration, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth Development Decade, the Cartagena Commitment of UNCTAD VIII, the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF), the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s and the various consensus agreements and conventions, especially Agenda 21, which were adopted during UNCED process. The Ministers reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in relevant documents, particularly in the areas of financial resources and transfer of technology.

14. The Ministers noted that in the years ahead different facets of the developmental consensus will be discussed during the forthcoming conferences, namely the International Conference on Population and Development, the Conference on Human Rights, the World Conference on Women and the envisaged Summit on Social Development. The Ministers underlined the importance of the convening of an international conference on the Financing of Development.

15. They expressed concern that the increasing needs of Central and Eastern Europe and the newly independent States for external resources are affecting the availability of resources to the developing countries. In this context, the Ministers recalled the assurances given by the developed countries and the multilateral financial institutions during the High-level Meeting of ECOSOC held in Geneva on 4-5 July 1991 that assistance to be given to the Central and Eastern European countries would not be at the expense of the developing countries. The Ministers stressed that those needs should be met from additional resources and not at the expense of resources earmarked for the developing countries.

III

ECOSOC and restructuring

16. The Ministers welcomed the holding of a High Level Segment in a revised format with Ministerial participation at the 1992 Substantive Session of Economic and Social Council from July 6-8, 1992.

17. The Ministers took note of the measures for restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields and resolved to make the United Nations more democratic, effective and efficient to enable it to meet new challenges. They reaffirmed that in this context, General Assembly resolution 45/264 provided the guiding principles and guidelines for the successful outcome of this important exercise and must continue to be the basis of reference for further steps in such process. This effort should also take into account the thrust and principles contained in S-18/3 adopted at the Eigtheenth Special Sesssion of the General Assembly, resolutions 45/199 and 46/235 and other relevant resolutions. They stressed that the restructuring and revitalization endeavours must preserve the democratic principles which underpin the decision making process of the United Nations.

IV

International Trade

18. The Ministers welcomed the successful outcome of UNCTAD VIII as reflected in the final document, "A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment", and stressed the importance of its expeditious and effective implementation. They reiterated their conviction that a free, open, transparent, rule-based and non-discriminatory international trading system can provide an effective and viable basis for the promotion of equitable development and economic prosperity of all countries.

19. The Ministers identified freer access to the developed countries' markets as an indispensable means of taking full advantage of international trade which they consider as the most important vehicle for advancing the economic growth and sustaining the momentum of development of the developing countries. In pursuit of these central objectives the developing countries have initiated various supportive trade policy measures including the adoption of unilateral trade liberalization measures. The Ministers expressed the hope that the emerging regional trading arrangements are open and transparent so as to contribute towards enhancing multilateral trade and cooperation. Moreover, developed countries are resorting increasingly to unilateral protectionist measures in clear violation of the rules of international trade. They further observed that it was ironic that these protectionist measures are taking place at a time when the developing countries have accepted the need to liberalize their trade regimes and to integrate their economies in the global system of trade and finance.

20. The Ministers called for the successful and balanced outcome of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations at the earliest. A principal objective of developing countries in these negotiations is to bring about further liberalization and expansion of world trade through, inter alia, the dismantling of protectionist measures specially the discriminatory restrictions imposed on certain exports of the developing countries. Although the main thrust of these negotiations has in recent months been in respect of new issues, every effort should be made to ensure that the Uruguay Round is concluded by fully taking into account the concerns and interests of developing countries in all sectors. They further noted that if the opportunities afforded by the Uruguay Round are missed, it will constitute a severe blow to multilateralism. They therefore called on all countries and in particular the developed countries to resolve their differences speedily and conclude the round of negotiations in a transparent, balanced and expeditious manner. In this context, they urged the developed countries to avoid aggravating the severe economic difficulties facing the developing countries by pursuing reprehensive trade practices, including corrupt practices. They called for an early adoption of a binding international instrument aimed at ending such trade practices.

Commodities

21. The Ministers emphasized that the dominant feature of the present world commodity economy was that of structurally distorted markets and persistently low and declining real commodity prices. They believed that the solution to the commodity problem called for urgent measures to be taken in conformity with the Integrated Programme for Commodities. They therefore urged that producers and consumers continue to explore ways and means of reinforcing their cooperation. Full and active participation in international commodity agreements and arrangements should be pursued with a view to achieving more efficient international commodity cooperation and assisting the diversification of the economies of commodity-dependent developing countries. There is a sense of urgency to improve market conditions and to achieve higher levels of processing, marketing, distribution and transportation of commodities. Concrete programmes are needed to be drawn up for maximum utilization of the Common Fund for Commodities. The Ministers took note of the proposal for convening an international conference on commodities as well as of the decision by UNCTAD VIII (Cartagena Commitment) to launch a process of consultations on the possibility of convening such a conference.

V

External Debt of Developing Countries

22. The Ministers emphasized that the problem of the external debt and debt servicing of developing countries continues to impose severe constraints on their

economic growth and development. The servicing of their huge external debt has drained badly needed resources for investment. It has also led to a situation where there is an increasing substantial transfer of resources from developing to developed countries. The response of the international community to the debt problem has been sporadic, piecemeal and inadequate. The Ministers stressed that only a comprehensive and durable solution to the external debt problem which would take into account the need to significantly reduce the stock and service of all types of debt to all types of debtor countries and include anticipatory measures to prevent the proliferation of the debt problem, would lead to the alleviation of this burden on the developing world. In the absence of such measures the efforts being made by developing countries for their accelerated development would be thwarted and bring in its wake the greater risk of social and political turmoil. In this respect, the Ministers emphasized that a durable solution must include strengthening and liberalization of the international trading system as the most important source of real growth and development and, therefore, of the resources necessary for debtor countries to face their financial obligations. They also took note of recent debt reduction measures and initiatives as an important step towards a durable solution of the external debt problem, and emphasized the need for similar arrangements to be extended to all indebted developing countries. They stressed the continued consideration and wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt swaps for the protection of nature and debt-for-development swaps as contributions towards addressing the external debt problems of all indebted developing countries. Moreover, low income countries which have continued to service their debts at considerable sacrifice to themselves must be provided some relief for example in the form of balance of payments support. At the same time they reiterated the advisability of seeking innovative and creative ideas for the solution of the external debt problem.

Monetary and Financial System

23. The Ministers reiterated that the present international monetary system which is based on the dominant role of the major developed countries is in need of systemic and institutional reform. They expressed serious concern over the lack of progress in efforts to effect meaningful reform and to restructure the international monetary and financial system. The International Monetary Fund should ensure efficient multilateral surveillance particularly over balance of payments trends and exchange policies of the major developed countries. They called upon developed countries to democratize consultations as well as the decision-making process in the multilateral financial institutions so that broadened participation will ensure that the interets and needs of development of developing countries would be adequately represented.

24. The Ministers noted that a major source of capital flows for the developing countries have been the multilateral financial institutions comprising the World

Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the regional development banks. The net transfer from these institutions as a group has been falling off rapidly and in some cases developing countries are facing the prospect of a net transfer financial outflow in favor of these institutions.

Development Finance

25. The Ministers stressed the failure of the international financial system to furnish adequate development finance over the years, thus leaving the developing countries with serious financial problems. In this context, the Ministers underlined the importance of convening an international conference on Financing of Development.

26. Sharp contraction in external commercial flows and virtual stagnation in Official Development Assistance (ODA) at less than half the agreed target level of 0.7% Gross National Product, a commitment which they first made nearly 20 years ago, have had a major adverse impact on development prospect. The negative net transfer of resources from the developing countries can also be reduced and reversed by a significant increase in new capital flows to the developing countries. They urged developed countries, which have not done so, to fulfill their commitment of attaining the internationally agreed target of 0.7% of GNP as Official Development Assistance by the year 2000.

27. The Ministers stressed that the provision of additional, concessional resources to low-income countries is a matter of particular importance. In this context they called for the increase in real terms of resources available under the tenth replenishment of IDA, taking into account the growing needs of low-income countries for concessional finance. Similarly, additional financial flows under the Structural Adjustment Facility (SAF) and the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) should provide medium-term concessional flows to low-income countries. They also stressed the importance of achieving the highest possible level for the Fourth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

Foreign direct investment

28. The Ministers stressed that foreign direct investment was an important source of capital and financial flows to developing countries. In this regard, they called on developed countries to encourage such flows, through appropriate measures, to developing countries. They also recognized the vital role TNCs played as a vehicle of foreign investment.

U.N. Operational Activities for Development

29. The Ministers recognized the need to rationalize the operational arm of the UN system with a view to ensuring greater effectiveness and optimum delivery of programmes. They reaffirmed the principles of universality, multilateralism, voluntary/grant nature, neutrality, non-conditionality and flexibility in meeting the technical cooperation requirements of developing countries. The Ministers emphasized the vital importance of meeting increasing resource needs of developing countries in regard to the operational activities for development. They stressed that the way to achieve this objective is through substantial and urgent increase in real terms of the overall level of resources for operational activities for development of the United Nations system on a continuous, predictable and assured basis bearing in mind the special needs of the LDCs. They further stressed that the developing countries should assume full responsibility for the execution of projects funded by the United Nations system in order to ensure that they are managed in an integrated manner, to strengthen national capacities and to ensure the long-term sustainability and wide impact of projects in the development process. Moreover, the Ministers emphasized that the programming of operational activities must be in full accord with the priorities, objectives, national plans and development strategies of developing countries, who are solely responsible for their definition. Any attempts to impose conditionalities which violate the basic principle of neutrality of multilateral assistance must be rejected. Financial contributions should be untied. The Ministers stressed the need for the full implementation of relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

Environment and Development

30. The Ministers stressed that the environment is the common concern of all humanity and therefore its problems should be redressed through multilateral cooperation, based on common but differentiated responsibilities, common endeavours and a balanced perspective. Such cooperation should ensure that protection of the environment, economic growth and development, and poverty eradication be mutually reinforcing. Therefore, it is imperative that environmental and developmental concerns must be integrated. Towards this end, they urged that all states cooperate in promoting a supportive and conducive atmosphere that would result in sustained economic growth and development for all countries. The developed countries having acknowledged the main responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development, in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and because of the technologies and financial resources they command must fulfil their responsibility.

31. The Ministers also stressed that the lasting solution to the global environmental problems lies in the concept of sustainable development. While sustainable development has been recognized by the international community, the

challenge remains to translate this concept into workable strategies and policy measures that can gain the support of all. The Ministers reiterated the need for political will on the part of developed countries for the effective implementation of their commitments embodied in Agenda 21, particularly in the areas of financial resources and transfer of technology.

32. The Ministers were of the view that the developing countries have the sovereign right to use their own natural resources in keeping with their developmental and environmental objectives and priorities. They therefore urged developed countries and international institutions not to use environmental considerations or conditionalities as an excuse for interference in the internal affairs of the developing countries, nor should this be used to introduce any forms of conditionality in aid or development financing, or to impose trade barriers affecting the export and development effort of the developing countries.

33. While welcoming the outcome of the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, the Ministers emphasized that the results will only be meaningful if adequate, new and additional financial resources are to be made available for the implementation of the Programme of Action of Agenda 21. They noted the reaffirmation of the commitments of developed countries to achieve UN target of 0.7% of GNP for ODA and, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, agreed to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible or by the year 2000. In this context, they also stressed the imperative need for the developed countries and multilateral financial institutions to implement these commitments by granting adequate development assistance to developing countries.

34. They also welcomed the recommendation to the UN General Assembly on the establishment, in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter, of a High Level Commission on Sustainable Development. This Commission would help enhance international cooperation for sustainable development and also, on a priority basis, monitor financial and technology flows to developing countries. By monitoring the implementation of programmes in developed countries it would be possible to ensure the adequacy of the environmental space required by the developing countries for their economic and social advancement. They believed that the Commission should be convened as soon as possible in order to ensure that the follow-up of the Rio Conference will meet the expected hopes and aspirations of all countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the decision taken at the UNCED at Rio de Janeiro of convening a pledging conference for initial commitments by the developed countries to be held during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly and expressed the hope that developed countries would make significant commitments to this end.

35. The Ministers welcomed the decision of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development aimed at the adopting of an international

Convention to combat desertification, in particular in Africa. They stressed the importance of the establishment by the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly of an open-ended intergovernmental negotiating Committee for the elaboration and adoption of such international Convention before June 1994. They called upon the developed countries as well as the relevant International Organizations to pay due regard to the elaboration of this international Convention, which should contain appropriate commitments.

Science and Technology

36. The Ministers stressed that science and technology is crucial for the promotion of economic growth and development of developing countries. The benefits of science and technology can be optimized by jointly promoting and strengthening endogenous capacities of developing countries and by evolving effective modalities for the access to and transfer of technology on concessional and preferential terms. The Ministers expressed concern at the increasing trend to hinder the free flow of technology to developing countries. They urged the developed countries to improve the access of developing countries to new technologies on fair and reasonable terms and to foster their dissemination and use.

37. The Ministers urged the continuing implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development and called on all countries, especially developed ones, as well as on the international development institutions, to consider seriously the reinvigoration of the United Nations financing system for science and technology for development as envisaged in the Vienna Programme of Action.

38. The Ministers, welcoming the establishment of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, underlined its important role in promoting science and technology, specially in developing countries.

Energy

39. The Ministers reiterated that the adequate supply of energy is vital to the acceleration of growth and development of the developing countries. The Ministers called upon all countries to assist the developing countries in developing their energy resources. The international community should explore ways and means of overcoming the adverse effects of energy price fluctuations on developing countries. In view of their crucial importance for all countries, it is necessary to develop new and renewable sources of energy in accordance with the objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action. The Ministers welcomed the establishment by the 1992 substantive session of ECOSOC of the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy for Development.

Industrialization

40. The Ministers believed that industrialization remains a dynamic instrument of growth essential to accelerating economic and social development particularly in the developing countries. They noted that during the previous decade, world industrial production had been developing unevenly, with some developing countries undergoing a decline in real growth. They pointed out the necessity to properly assist the different stages of industrialization of developing countries. They noted that the target established at the Lima Conference of 25% of world manufacturing value added is far from being achieved by the developing countries. They called for the application of the principle of comparative advantage for the phasing out of industrial units in the developed countries in areas in which the developing countries' industries are more efficient and to this end called upon developed countries to eliminate protectionist measures in support of their uncompetitive industries.

41. The Ministers emphasized the imperative need to keep industrialization issues at the center of global attention, and its role in the reactivation of the development of the developing countries.

Food and Agriculture

42. The Ministers reaffirmed that food and agriculture including, inter alia, adequate production and food security, have special importance in the development of developing countries. They highlighted the importance of ensuring developing countries' access to markets in the context of a full liberalization of agricultural trade, including progressive reduction of export subsidies in developed countries, and the supply of the inputs necessary for production, taking into consideration the interests of the net food importing developing countries. They also stressed that an increase in agricultural production in developing countries can be a basis for industrial growth and diversification of their economic structure. To that end, they considered that financial cooperation and investment should form part of national policies and programmes for international cooperation. The Ministers called upon the international community particularly the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, to closely monitor further development in the global food situation with a view to responding adequately and timely to the needs of developing countries. The Ministers called on all donor countries to ensure the maintenance of food assistance and to increase its share of aid channeled through the World Food Programme to enable the Programme to continue its activity in support of development and in meeting emergency food needs of developing countries. The Ministers reaffirmed that the right to food is a universal human right and should be guaranteed to all people and should not be used as an instrument of political pressure.

43. The Ministers reiterated that within the food and agriculture sector, national food strategies remain a very useful means for advancing food production, food self-reliance and better access to food. In this context, they welcomed the efforts being made and assistance provided by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, the World Food Programme, the Regional Development Banks, the International Fund Agricultural Development and United Nations Development Programme in this field and encouraged to improve food strategy cooperation and coordination among multilateral agencies.

44. The Ministers welcomed the Geneva Declaration on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women and called for its implementation. They also welcomed the convening of the forthcoming international conference on nutrition in Rome.

Human Resource Development

45. The Ministers reaffirmed that people are central to all development activities and that human resource development is an essential means of achieving economic and social development goals. They urged that human resource development should be undertaken in an overall, well conceived and integrated approach, taking into account such areas as health, nutritional improvements, education and training as well creating more opportunities for employment. In this regard, human resource development should be designed for purposes of realizing the potential capabilities, skills and self-reliance to meet the growing manpower requirements of the developing countries.

46. The Ministers reaffirmed that eradication of illiteracy and providing education for all should remain a top priority with a view to reaching the goal of eradicating illiteracy by the year 2000. In this context the Ministers welcomed the efforts undertaken by UNESCO in various Member States which have resulted in the decline of worldwide illiteracy rates in real terms. Noting the results of the recently concluded International Conference on Education, the Ministers stressed the need for incorporating the cultural dimension in the educational and development policies being pursued by Member States.

UNDP in the field of Human Development

47. While welcoming the efforts of UNDP in the field of human development, the Ministers believed that the incursion into areas beyond the mandate and competence of UNDP has proved to be divisive and not constructive. Therefore, they called upon UNDP to strictly observe its mandate and continue its productive activities in assisting developing countries to achieve their development goals, taking into account General Assembly resolutions related to patterns of consumption and qualitative indicators for development.

Social Development

48. The Ministers further reaffirmed the goals set forth in the United Nations Declaration on Social Progress and Development adopted in United Nations General Assembly resolution 2542 (XXIV) and the need to effectively implement them in order to achieve a more just and equitable social order. They also welcomed with satisfaction ECOSOC resolution E/1992/27 which recommends to the General Assembly the convening of a World Summit for Social Development at the level of Heads of States and/or Government in early 1995.

Population

49. The Ministers underlined the importance attached to the relationship between population and development and the need for all countries to strengthen the level of awareness of population issues. In this context, the international community should support the national policies and programmes of all countries, especially developing countries, taking into account the sovereign right of all countries to formulate, adopt and implement their population policies, mindful of their culture, values and traditions, as well as their social, economic and political conditions. Such population programmes should be accompanied by improvements in the quality of human resources and expansion of job opportunities. In this regard, the Ministers welcomed the planned convening of the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 in Cairo.

Human Settlements

50. The Ministers reaffirmed the importance of providing adequate shelter for the well-being of the people. They expressed their keen desire that the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly may take a decision to hold the Second International Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in 1997. In this context, they welcomed the efforts made and assistance provided by UNCHS.

South-South Cooperation

51. To take a concerted action in the negotiations with the North, it is necessary to prepare realistic guidelines for joint action, to revitalize the Group and strengthen its cohesion and solidarity.

52. The Ministers were of the view that as an indispensable corollary to efforts in the North-South context, South-South cooperation based on the concept of collective self-reliance, must also be intensified. They were further of the view that the development of concrete, practicable and mutually beneficial economic and technical cooperations among the developing countries, not only opens up new avenues for growth and reduces undue dependence vis-a-vis the North, but also

constitutes an integral element of any strategy towards enhancing international economic cooperation. They emphasized that success in South-South cooperation will lend greater credibility and added strength to efforts in attaining a new, just and equitable international economic order. In this context and in order to accelerate the implementation of projects of common interest to developing countries, an evolutionary and flexible approach is appropriate, whereby groups of interested countries, as core groups, initiate cooperation in such projects which are open to all developing countries. They were of the view that if these groups of core countries are ready to implement projects of mutual benefit, such initiatives should be encouarged, particularly where they contribute to strengthening the collective self-sufficiency of the developing world.

53. The Ministers stressed that in addition to efforts undertaken by developing countries to promote economic and technical cooperation among themselves, the objectives set forth by the Caracas Programme of Action on ECDC need to be further pursued and accomplished. In this context, they called upon the donor countries as well as the United Nations organizations in all their programmes to extend their support to these efforts to strengthen the collective self-reliance of the developing countries.

54. The Ministers welcomed the results of the Fifth Meeting of Representatives of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Developing Countries, held in Jakarta, 16-20 February 1992, to promote South-South trade, industrial cooperation, investment and joint ventures.

55. The Ministers were of the view that cooperation between the business communities of the developing countries should be expanded to both, strengthen their self-reliance, as well as to reduce their dependency on the developed countries. The Ministers acknowledged that the Global System on Trade Preferences among Developing Countries (GSTP) was an important vehicle for expanding trade among developing countries and urged that efforts be made to strengthen it. The Ministers took note with appreciation of the Tehran Declaration on Launching the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations, and thanked the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting the GSTP Ministerial Meeting on launching the Second Round. They called upon interested members of the Group of 77 to participate in the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations and to the work of the Negotiating Committee with a view to acceeding to the Agreement on GSTP and to carry forward the exchange of trade concessions. They endorsed the Tehran Declaration's request for the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund, UNCTAD, UNDP and other intergovernmental orgnaizations to provide financial and other support for the conduct of the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations and the implementation of its results. The Ministers welcomed the offer of the Republic of Cuba to host the Ministerial Meeting of the Negotiating Committee for

the Second Round of GSTP Negotiations to be concluded, in principle, in July 1994.

56. The Ministers took note of the postponement of the Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on ECDC (IFCC-VIII). In this connection, the Ministers requested the Chairman of the Group of 77 in New York to undertake the necessary measures for convening IFCC-VIII at a suitable date, preferably in the first half of 1993 in one of the regional commissions or in New York.

Critical economic situation in Africa

57. The Ministers expressed concern over the continued deterioration of the economic situation in Africa. Despite concerted efforts undertaken jointly by the countries of Africa and the international community, economic and social conditions actually worsened in most African countries, especially in the Sub-Saharan region. And, the goals set by the United Nations Programme of Action for African Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD) 1986-1990, were far from being realized.

58. They noted that the continuing critical economic situation in Africa was rooted in many sources which include, inter alia, chronic indebtedness, commodity dependency, collapse of commodity prices, structural deficiency and an inability to mobilize adequate resources for economic growth and sustained self-reliant development.

59. The Ministers fully supported the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa (UN-NADAF) in the 1990s which was adopted by the 46th UN General Assembly, renewing the commitment of the international community to achieve self-sustaining socio-economic growth and development in Africa.

60. The Ministers called upon the international community and especially the developed countries, the United Nations and the multilateral finance and development institutions, to fully support the new agenda and to take appropriate measures to implement the commitments undertaken in it.

61. The Ministers expressed grave concern over the adverse impact of the continuing deterioriation of the economic situation in Africa on the socially disadvantaged sectors, particularly the children. They appealed to the international community, in particular the developed countries, the international and regional organizations, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and non-governmental organizations to participate actively in the international conference for assistance to the African children scheduled to be held in Dakar, from 25 to 27 November 1992.

Least Developed Countries

62. The Ministers expressed deep concern over the continued deterioration of the economic and social situation in the least developed countries. They further noted that over the past decade most of the least developed countries have experienced negative growth rates and suffered from inadequate international development assistance to implement their programmes of economic development and structural transformation. Referring to the serious vulnerabilities of the least developed countries, the Ministers reaffirmed the special needs of these countries and called for full implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s as well as other concrete measures in specific areas considered important to spur growth and development in these countries on a sustained basis. The Ministers stressed the need for additional resource flows following the enlargement of the group of LDCs on application of new set of criteria.

Land-locked developing countries

63. The Ministers recalled all previous decisions of the Group of 77 concerning the land-locked developing countries and noted with concern that the measures taken so far have not been sufficient to tackle the serious problems faced by these countries. They reiterated the need to address the specific problems of these developing countries with regard to reducing the costs of their access to and from the sea and world markets. They stressed the need for the international community to assist and improve the quality, efficiency and reliability of transport facilities, diversify their economies and increase financial resources and technical cooperation to promote the above-mentioned activities. In this context, the Ministers stressed the need and importance of cooperation between landlocked and transit developing countries.

Island developing countries

64. The Ministers recognized the acute problems faced by small island developing countries arising from their geographic configuration and location, high exposure to natural disasters, limitations in transport and communications, great distances from market centers, limited availability of fresh water, heavy dependence on imports, depletion of their non-renewable resources and shortage of administrative personnel. They noted that the specific problems of small island developing countries and the growing incidence of natural disasters retarded their growth and increased their susceptibility to the hostile economic environment, and expressed the need for the international community, particularly the donor countries and the United Nations system to address the specific problems of these island developing countries. In this regard, they welcomed the recommendation contained in Agenda 21 for a

global conference on the sustainable development of small island states to be held in 1993.

VI

65. The Ministers noted with great concern the refusal of Israel to comply with U.N. resolutions to put an end to its occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, Syrian Golan and parts of Southern Lebanon, and the continuation of the Israeli occupation authorities in establishing settlements in those territories and bringing in new Jewish settlers depriving the Arab people of their land and sovereignty over their natural resources, thus impeding their economic and social development and hindering the peace process in the Middle East. In this context, the Ministers affirmed the urgent need to see the termination of this occupation. Taking into account the recent developments on the Middle East question, the Ministers called for a halt to these settlement activities and the removal of all these settlements from all occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem.

66. The Ministers took note of the recent developments that have taken place in South Africa. They expressed their satisfaction over the repeal and amendments of some of the basic discriminatory laws, the convening of the Patriotic United Front Conference in October 1991 and the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA). However, they expressed concern on the discontinuation of negotiation process under CODESA framework. They strongly urged the South African regime to create a climate conducive to peaceful negotiation and free political activity, by repealing all remaining discriminatory laws, releasing all political prisoners as well as facilitating the return of all political exiles. The Ministers, noting that the present level of change in South Africa is not yet profound and irreversible, stressed the necessity of maintaining pressure against South Africa for the total eradication of apartheid and establishing a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

67. The Ministers called upon the international community for the immediate elimination of the use of coercive economic measures against developing countries which have not been authorized by the relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles contained in the United Nations Charter as a means of forcibly imposing the will of one state on another.

VII

NAM and G-77

68. The Ministers reiterated the need to strengthen coordination between the activities of the Group of 77 and the Non-Aligned Movement for promoting economic and technical cooperation among developing countries. In this regard, the Ministers welcome the proposal of the NAM to establish a Joint Coordination

Committee between both of them for the purpose of harmonizing, consolidating, and integrating whenever possible the sectors of the Action Programme for Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries (APEC) and the Caracas Programme of Action of the Group of 77 (CPA). In this context, the Ministers entrusted the Chairman of the Group of 77 to conduct appropriate consultations with the Chairman of NAM.